

Districts of Innovation: Amendment and Renewal

Overview

Texas Education Code (TEC) §12A.007: A local innovation plan may be amended, rescinded, or renewed if the action is approved by the district-level committee established under TEC §11.251, or by a comparable committee if the district is exempt from that section, and by the board of trustees in the same manner required for initial adoption under TEC §12A.005.

19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §102.1313: A district innovation plan may be amended, rescinded, or renewed with approval by a majority vote of the district-level committee established under TEC §11.251, or a comparable committee if the district is exempt from that section, and a two-thirds majority vote of the board of trustees. The district must notify the commissioner of education of the action, associated TEC exemptions, and local approval dates.

A designated District of Innovation (DOI) may amend or renew its plan at any time in accordance with applicable provisions of the Texas Education Code and Texas Administrative Code. The amendment and renewal processes differ, as explained below.

Amendment

19 TAC §102.1313(a)(1): An amendment to an approved plan does not change the term of the district's designation. Exemptions that were previously approved do not have to be reviewed again.

- A district may amend its DOI plan at any time during the plan term.
- The district does not have to repeat the full adoption process. See "Process Requirements" below.
- The amendment **does not** change the plan term. The originally adopted term remains in effect.

Renewal

19 TAC §102.1313(a)(3): During renewal, the district must review all sections of the plan and all exemptions. The district must follow the adoption components in 19 TAC §102.1307, except that it does not have to notify the commissioner before the board votes on the proposed plan. To renew, the district must meet the eligibility requirements in 19 TAC §102.1303.

- The district's final and most recent academic accountability rating must be at least acceptable to be eligible for renewal (19 TAC §102.1303(a)).
- The board may not vote to adopt a renewal if the district is assigned a final or preliminary rating below acceptable performance (19 TAC §102.1303(b)).
- The renewed plan term may extend for up to five additional years.
- A district may have only one innovation plan at a time. A renewed plan generally takes effect after the current plan expires. If the district intends the renewed plan to begin earlier, the renewed plan supersedes the current plan at that time, and the current plan becomes void (19 TAC §102.1311).

Renewal after a plan expires

19 TAC §102.1313(a)(3)(B): A district that does not renew before expiration may renew during the six months after the expiration date and maintain continuous designation as a district of innovation.

Best practice is to complete renewal so that the renewed plan is effective no later than the current plan's expiration date. If renewal occurs during the six-month period after expiration, the following requirements apply:

- The renewed plan may not exceed five calendar years, **beginning on the prior plan's expiration date** (19 TAC §102.1313(a)(3)(B)(ii)).
 - Example: If the prior plan expired August 1, 2026, and the board renewed it October 1, 2026, the renewed term begins August 1, 2026.
- **Changes made during renewal take effect on the renewed plan's adoption date**, not retroactively on the beginning date of the renewed term (19 TAC §102.1313(a)(3)(B)(iii)).
- **The district must mark each change with the date of the board vote to renew** so the earliest effective date is clear (19 TAC §102.1313(a)(3)(B)(iv)).
 - Example: If the prior plan expired August 1, 2026, and the board renewed it with changes on October 1, 2026, the renewed term begins August 1, 2026, but the changes take effect October 1, 2026 and must be annotated with the effective date.

If the district does not renew before expiration or within the following six months, it must (19 TAC §102.1313(a)(3)(B)(v)):

- Comply with all requirements from which it had previously claimed exemptions, effective on the plan's expiration date.
- Complete the full adoption process again if it later seeks District of Innovation designation.

Process Requirements

Amendment to Plan

1. **District-level committee meeting and approval.** The committee established under TEC §11.251 must approve the amendment by majority vote.
2. **Board approval.** The board of trustees must adopt the amendment by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the board membership.
3. **Complete the post-adoption actions no later than the 15th calendar day after board adoption.**
 - a. post the current amended plan on the district website; and
 - b. Notify the commissioner (see [“Notification: Amendment” section](#) below) and
 - i. submit the updated exemption checklist; and
 - ii. provide link to the webpage on which the plan is posted (not a direct link to the file itself)

Renewal of Plan

Note: During renewal, the district may also amend the plan as the steps for amendment are included in the renewal process.

1. **District-level committee public meeting and approval.** The committee established under TEC §11.251 must hold a public meeting to consider the final proposed plan and approve it by majority vote.
2. **30-day public web posting.** The final version of the proposed plan must be posted on the district website for at least 30 days prior to board adoption.
3. **Board adoption.** The board of trustees must adopt the renewed plan by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the board membership.
4. **Complete the post-adoption actions no later than the 15th calendar day after board adoption.**
 - a. post the current amended plan on the district website; and
 - b. Notify the commissioner (see [“Notification: Renewal” section](#) below) and
 - i. submit the updated exemption checklist; and
 - ii. provide link to the webpage on which the plan is posted (not a direct link to the file itself)

Not required for either process

- A board resolution or petition to develop a plan.
- A school board public hearing on whether to develop a plan.
- Advance notice to the commissioner before the board vote.

Notification: Amendment

Notification is required **no later than 15 calendar days** after the board adopts an amendment.

How to submit

- Email the notice to Accred@tea.texas.gov.

What to include in the notice

- A statement that the board approved an amendment to the plan.
- The adoption date, which is the date of the board meeting.
- A description of the amendments, including TEC sections changed, added, or removed.
- A link to the district webpage where the final amended plan is posted (**not** a direct link to the file itself).

Attachment

- An updated exemption checklist showing all code sections from which the district is exempt, including newly adopted and previously adopted exemptions (exclude exemptions that have been removed). [Open the exemption checklist form](#), [Read Tips for Completing the DOI Checklist](#)

Notification: Renewal

Notification is required **no later than 15 calendar days** after the board adopts a renewed DOI plan.

How to submit

- Email the notice to Accred@tea.texas.gov.

What to include in the notice

- A statement that the board adopted the renewed plan.
- The adoption date, which is the date of the board meeting.
- A link to the district webpage where the final adopted renewed plan is posted (**not** a direct link to the file itself).

Attachment

- An updated exemption checklist showing all code sections from which the district is exempt, including newly adopted and previously adopted exemptions (exclude exemptions that have been removed). [Open the exemption checklist form](#), [Read Tips for Completing the DOI Checklist](#)

Resources

- [TEA Districts of Innovation webpage](#)
- [Texas Education Code, Chapter 12A: Districts of Innovation](#)
- [Commissioner's Rules: 19 TAC Chapter 102, Subchapter JJ](#)